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minute, and by holding his breath at the rate of 27 per minute. Other experiments show, however, that the power does not consist in any change in breathing, nor does it depend on increased blood pressure, voluntary motion, nor, according to the subject, on the fixation of any emotion or idea. The change of rate seems to be effected by a series of impulses which gradually weaken in force; the power to produce these is also easily exhausted. The subject, as seems general in such cases has a certain power over the ear muscles and others not commonly under control.

On the Observation of Sudden Phenomena. S. P. LANGLEY. Amer. Jour. of Sc. XXXVIII, 93, Aug. 1889.

Reference was made in an earlier number of this JOURNAL (II, 24) to a device of Prof. Langley's for excluding personal equation in transit observations. He now presents a simple and ingenious instrument for practically excluding it in the observation of sudden phenomena (*e. g.* the emergence of stars from the dark limb of the moon, etc.). The detail of the instrument must be seen in the original; but in general it depends on the introduction of a double total-reflection prism, revolving in the axis of the instrument. The image of the emerging star, or whatever the phenomenon be, is thus made to appear in a different sector of the field according to the part of the second in which it occurs. On trial with a field divided into 20 sectors and an artificial star, one of the observers, without special practice, reduced his probable error for a single observation to about one fortieth of a second.

Ueber die galvanischen Erscheinungen in der Haut des Menschen bei Reizungen der Sinnesorgane und bei verschiedenen Formen der psychischen Thätigkeit. J. TARCHANOFF. Pfüger's Archiv, Bd. XLVI. pp. 46-55.

These experiments were made with the galvanometer of Meissner and Meyerstein, the deflections of the mirror being read off on a scale by means of a telescope. The instrument was so sensitive that the current in the N. ischiacus of the frog was sufficient to cause the scale to disappear from sight. The electrodes were applied to different parts of the body, principally to the outer surface of the hand and the inner surface at the base of the fingers. The currents of a state of rest were compensated for, and the subject was, of course, undisturbed and motionless. It was found that tickling was sufficient to cause a strong deflection of the needle. After a latent period of from one to three seconds, the current was at first weak and slow, and then so strong as to put the scale out of sight. The inside of the hand was negative, the outside positive. Electricity, heat and cold, the prick of a needle, caused the same effect, but not to such an extent. So did stimulation of the special sense-organs, the sound of an electric bell, the smell of vinegar and ammonia, the taste of sugar, etc. After the eyes had been closed for some time, simply opening them was sufficient to produce a current. Different effects were produced by different colors,—it is not stated what colors were the most irritating. But when no sensation was experienced, the mere imagination of a sensation was sufficient to produce a change of from 10 to 15 divisions on the scale. The idea of extreme heat was especially effective, and still more so if the hand, which was being tested was